

## Strong Sample Letter of Recommendation

Letterhead (if available)

Name of Institution  
Your Street Address  
City, State Zip Code

Re: Rory Panther  
AAMC: 1234567

Date

Dear Program Director,

It is my pleasure to write this letter in strong support of the application of Ms. Rory Panther for your residency program. I have been clinical faculty with Florida International University since its inception and have worked with family medicine students in the clinical setting for the last 8 years. Overall, I have taught and worked with medical students in the clinic setting for the past 20 years. I worked personally with Ms. Panther over the course of the 8 week rotation in a family medicine clinic. In this capacity, I was able to closely observe and assess her clinical skills.

Ms. Panther was always prepared for each day's census, reading about every patient's history, labs, and diagnoses. An example of the level of her preparation was seen in her recommendation that we follow up on sleep issues documented by the therapist in the EMR, indicating Ms. Panther's thorough knowledge of the patient, including notes by other providers. Another example is that she correctly interpreted abnormal thyroid function studies, and made appropriate treatment recommendations (including strength of medication) and follow up lab recommendations.

Ms. Panther demonstrated her clinical curiosity by asking and answering a clinical question using evidence-based resources. Specifically, she saw a patient with symptoms of a urinary tract infection, but with a clean urine dipstick and looked up the sensitivity and specificity of the urine dip in the face of a strong pretest probability and then seeing that the clean urine dipstick did not negate the history, Ms. Panther looked up the appropriate treatment, including dose and frequency. For a patient with testicular pain, she came up with at least five differential diagnoses, including important "can't miss" diagnoses.

Ms. Panther also demonstrated strong teaching skills in working with a first year medical student coming to the clinic to learn how to obtain a history from a patient. Ms. Panther went over the patient they were

### What makes a strong letter?

The letter is written on letterhead.

The letter describes the letter writer's qualifications for writing this letter, specifically, her experience in medical education

The letter describes the writer's current role as a clinical teacher.

The letter describes how long and in what capacity the writer has known the student.

The letter includes opinions and observations.

The letter is specific and accurate, including details.

The writer states specific qualities the candidate possesses: preparedness, clinical curiosity, and teaching skills.

The writer provides details to demonstrate how the candidate exhibited a certain quality.

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going to see and asked the first year student if she was worried about any part of the history. After interviewing the patient, Ms. Panther gave feedback to the first year student, accurately noting that her body language supported the interview and that transitions might help the interview to flow more smoothly.

Spelling and grammar have been checked

Ms. Panther is an exceptional learner who excels in having the abilities to communicate with the patient, to be proactive in the work of the clinic, and the clinical acumen required of an outstanding family physician. She was able to establish excellent rapport with patients of any culture or socioeconomic background including patients below the poverty threshold as well as financially secure and from various countries such as Venezuela, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Pakistan, and Russia. One patient commented that “she asked about everything I was worried about” and was “so kind” in the interview. Ms. Panther cares genuinely for the well-being of patients she cared for.

This paragraph again gives another example of how the student displayed specific skills and attitudes in the clinical setting.

The nurse also noted Ms. Panther’s clinical skills and team work, specifically that Ms. Panther took advantage of every opportunity to learn, learning to perform blood draws and vaccines with good technique. The nurse also commented that Ms. Panther contributed to completing the work of the clinic, bringing in patients and doing vitals when needed.

Ms. Panther will be an asset to the residency of her choice and will be a hard-working, dedicated housestaff. I am hopeful that she ranks our family medicine residency program top on her rank list. She is in the top 10% of students with whom I have worked over the past 20 years and upon completion of her training she is someone I would trust with the care of my loved ones as patients. If our university had an [name of residency program], Ms. Panther would be an excellent fit in our program. I recommend her without reservation.

This letter provides a comparison of this student with other students with whom the writer has interacted over the years.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call or email. Ms. Panther has waived her right to view this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Name of Attending (signed by hand)

The letter is signed by hand

Name of Attending, M.D.  
Associate Professor of Medicine, Department  
Name of University

The letter includes a signature line which includes the writer’s faculty appointment.